

Application No.: 10/088,894

Docket No.: 20459-00351-US

In the Claims

Please amend claims 29 and 34 as indicated:

C¹ 29. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein a movement of the first and second feed chains activated by the electric motor in a direction opposite to the loading direction results in an accumulation of energy in the energy accumulator while the rammer returns to a starting position,

wherein a movement of the first and second feed chains in the loading direction brings about an acceleration of the rammer and the projectile component while energy is supplied from both the electric motor and the energy accumulator.

C² 34. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said mechanical conversion means for converting the rotational acceleration of the electric motor into a linear acceleration comprises a pinion which is driven by the electric motor, said pinion being arranged to bear against a first rack connected to the rammer,

wherein the energy accumulator comprises at least one spring and a second rack which is displaceable relative at least with respect to the first rack when the at least one spring is not in a fixed position,

wherein the energy accumulator is operatively coupled to a drive shaft of the electric motor via one or more pinions.